

**MINUTES OF THE  
JOINT PUBLIC EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE  
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18, 2006  
Room W135, West Office Building, State Capitol Complex**

Members Present:        Sen. Howard Stephenson, Co-Chair  
                              Rep. Gordon E. Snow, Co-Chair  
                              Sen. Karen Hale  
                              Rep. J. Stuart Adams  
                              Rep. Duane E. Bourdeaux  
                              Rep. LaVar Christensen  
                              Rep. Tim M. Cosgrove  
                              Rep. James A. Ferrin  
                              Rep. Julie Fisher  
                              Rep. Karen W. Morgan

Members Excused:       Sen. Beverly Evans  
                              Pres. John Valentine  
                              Rep. Ron Bigelow  
                              Rep. Stephen H. Urquhart

Members Absent:        Rep. Greg Hughes

Staff Present:            R. Michael Kjar, Legislative Fiscal Analyst  
                              Ben Leishman, Legislative Fiscal Analyst  
                              Cherie Schmidt, Secretary

Public Speakers Present: Dr. Patti Harrington, State Superintendent USOE  
                                  Christine Kearn, Deputy of Education  
                                  Ronda Rose, Utah PTA

A list of visitors and a copy of handouts are filed with the committee minutes.

Committee Co-Chair Snow called the meeting to order at 3:50 p.m.

1.     English Language Learners - Program Overview and Student Growth -  
      Dr. Patti Harrington, State Superintendent USOE, presented an overview of the English Language Learners Program. This program receives Title III Federal Funding to increase student English proficiency and achievement. The funds are used for English language proficiency, achievement in content areas, specifically Math, Science, and Language Arts, and to enhance parental involvement. This program also receives State funding through a block grant. Money is allocated to districts based on English language learner population. Funds are used for testing, professional development, interpreters, tutoring, a family library, and instructional services and strategies. Instructional strategies in

districts include: Dual Immersion where teachers teach school subjects in English three times a week and teach other school subjects in any other language (Navajo, Ute, and Spanish) two times a week; Sheltered Instruction where teachers use more visuals, group work, specialized vocabulary, experiments, projects, and language acquisition; Structured Immersion where teachers teach all content areas in English. Dr. Harrington stated that some people call this Structured Submersion because it gives children little support out of the classroom. These students are matched up with other students who try to help them. If a new student comes to high school with little knowledge of English needing a full schedule, he would receive only two or three periods of ESL instruction leaving three or four periods left to work with that student. The strongest research base is behind Dual Immersion.

The ELL growth rate since 2002 totals approximately 4,000 students. Most of these children are concentrated in high-poverty areas where income and housing is affordable. There is a high increase in numbers in inner-city Salt Lake City, inner-city Ogden, and inner-city Provo.

Most of the students who do not know English as their first language are in the young grades. There are five categories of ELL students A-E. An A student is a non-English speaker, and an E student is in the traditional classroom and being monitored to make sure he is succeeding. Chair Stephenson asked Dr. Harrington to provide a breakout of how many students from each category are in each grade.

Dr. Harrington stated that there is a strong need to work together for the ELL students. We must recognize uniqueness and build on strengths and seek common ground. There should be agreement on research, measurements, and proven practices. We should work together to be open to implementing and evaluating new ideas and strategies. The State Office feels strongly that all ELL students should be successful and be able to advance themselves out of poverty. Dr. Harrington stated that the State Office feels that everything should be done to provide opportunities for the ELL students to better themselves.

Dr. Harrington indicated that the first response is a generic one that helps all students. It is standard-based instruction with increased expectation for all, regular assessment, and early intervention. It is data-based decision making at local levels. It is a cultural shift from measuring inputs (teaching) to accountability for results (learning).

Key Utah State Board Initiatives include:

- Standard-Based Education
- Educator Quality

- Atmosphere for Achievement

Reference was made to a handout entitled "USOE/Assessment Accountability." This spreadsheet details the percentage of students passing tests in mathematics, reading, and writing.

Discussion from the Committee members centered on funding, diplomas, additional testing, and modification of curriculum.

2. No Child Left Behind - Actions Since 2006 General Session - Dr. Harrington next spoke on the No Child Left Behind Program. Dr. Harrington stated that Utah remains fully compliant with No Child Left Behind and will remain so. There is some correlation between this program and the U-PASS Program. On February 17, 2006, a U-PASS Accountability Plan consistent with the legislation passed last year will be submitted. Congress has cut the budget for the No Child Left Behind Program, and Dr. Harrington stated that these funds will be missed but are not central to Title I.

Co-Chair Snow welcomed Christine Kearl, Deputy of Education, to the meeting. She introduced herself to the Committee and stated that Governor Huntsman wants to help in creating a strong education system throughout the State.

3. Revenue Overview - This agenda item will be deferred to a future meeting.
4. Initial Subcommittee Business - Agenda Item Request by Subcommittee Members - Co-Chair Snow asked the Committee members for those agenda items or a prioritization list that needs to be included for this session. Rep. Christensen requested that civic education be included at the center of the education system and not on the fringes. Rep. Morgan requested classroom-size reduction in grades K-3 and the amount of dollars it would take to restrict those classroom sizes to 20 or less students. Sen. Hale spoke on the possibility of implementing a program that would assist administrators in their duties and would be an Administrator's Academy. Rep. Ferrin requested that he be able to give a presentation on the funding differential between district schools and charter schools. Sen. Stephenson requested that a discussions be held on the stipend for UBSCT and a discussion on increasing classroom supply money. Ronda Rose from the Utah PTA asked that a line item be added to the agenda for funding libraries, and that Charter Schools be included in that funding.

5. Committee Business - Sen. Hale spoke on the growth items that are not included in S.B. 3. A request was made to include the following in S.B. 3 Minimum School Program Base Budget Amendments:

- Line 59 - Add 699 additional Weighted Pupil Units and equivalent funding
- Line 61 - Add 30 additional Weighted Pupil Units and equivalent funding
- Line 62 - Add 892 additional Weighted Pupil Units and equivalent funding

This request provides that all WPU driven programs are increased to accommodate student growth in the Minimum School Programs Base Budget.

Discussion from the Committee members on this request centered around the real purpose of the base budget, what is funded in the base budget, why these items were omitted, and what is funded above and below the line. Ben Leishman, Legislative Fiscal Analyst, offered clarification on these discussion items.

**MOTION:** Sen. Hale moved to include the following in S.B. 3 Minimum School Program Base Budget Amendment:

Line 59 - Add 699 Additional Weighted Pupil Units and equivalent funding  
Line 61 - Add 30 additional Weighted Pupil Units and equivalent funding

The motion failed. Those voting in favor were Sen. Hale, Rep. Snow, Rep. Adams, Rep. Bourdeaux, Rep. Cosgrove, Rep. Ferrin, and Rep. Morgan. Those voting against were Sen. Stephenson and Rep. Christensen. Absent at the time of voting was Rep. Fisher.

**MOTION:** Rep. Ferrin moved to adjourn at 5:45 p.m.

Minutes were reported by Cherie Schmidt, Secretary

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Sen. Howard Stephenson, Committee Co-Chair

Rep. Gordon Snow, Committee Co-Chair